

What's News

TOP OF THE NEWS

Keeping some links to past
The blocks in the historic Dakota Crescent housing estate will not all be torn down in its redevelopment. Instead, the iconic dove playground and six blocks around it will be kept and repurposed, said National Development Minister Lawrence Wong yesterday. **A1**

TOP OF THE NEWS

NEA holding tech trials
The environmental services industry is adopting more technology and innovation as it keeps pace with rising demand for cleaning and waste management services. The National Environment Agency is partnering seven organisations to put technology trials in place that may see robots cleaning hospitals. **A6**



PHOTO: REUTERS

WORLD

Cambodian factories at risk
With seven months to go before Cambodia's general election, the country's US\$7 billion (S\$9.5 billion) garment and footwear industry is being wooed by Prime Minister Hun Sen (above) as a key vote bank.
But the industry is also in the crosshairs of foreign governments critical of Cambodia's crackdown on political dissent, with threats of possible economic penalties that could hurt the sector. **A16-17**

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INTERACTIVE

His last breath
Mr Tay Cheng Tian, 54, died in a hospice on Nov 4. He was never left alone as volunteers kept vigil by his bedside.
str.sg/noda



WEB SPECIAL

Season's greetings
Here are some heart-warming advertisements from retailers in Britain to fill consumers with festive cheer.
str.sg/oZEG

WORLD

Russian troops to leave Syria
President Vladimir Putin yesterday ordered "a significant part" of Russia's military contingent in Syria to start withdrawing, saying Moscow and Damascus had achieved their mission of destroying the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria group in just over two years. **A18**

OPINION

Evolution of legal education
Six decades ago, Singapore's colonial government was wary about locals studying law. Now, legal education is vital to our economy and is evolving rapidly to meet new challenges, says Professor Simon Chesterman. **A19**

HOME

Easier walk to Enabling Village
A 400m stretch of pavement between Redhill MRT station and the Enabling Village in Lengkok Bahru has been made more accessible for those with disabilities. Rest stops with seats and yellow lines for those with visual problems are among the improvements. **B1**

HOME

Higher fees at polys, ITE
Students entering polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) next year will see their tuition fees go up by between 3 per cent and 7 per cent. The new fees apply only to newcomers in the 2018 academic year. **B3**

BUSINESS

Clearbridge Health set for IPO
Clearbridge Health, the medtech investor formerly known as Clearbridge Accelerator, has set its sights on raising net proceeds of \$21.4 million through an initial public offering. The firm, which aims to build a business focused on precision medical services, is placing 88 million shares at 28 cents apiece. It plans to start trading on the Catalist board next Monday. **C1**

SPORT

Complaint filed over walkover
National Football League Division One club Bishan Barx have filed a complaint over Katong FC's walkover loss to Yishun Sentek Mariners last Wednesday. Katong did not have enough players and were automatically handed a 0-3 loss to Yishun, who clinched the Division One championship. Bishan are accusing Katong of being unsportsmanlike, since a four-goal defeat would have seen Katong relegated instead of Bishan. **C10**



ST PHOTO: TIMOTHY DAVID

LIFE

Comics bring history to life
Heritage-inspired comics (above) by local collective Comics Of Singapore Histories Studios uses alien hawkers, one-eyed dragon assassins and graveyard humour to bring to life local events, topics and stories. **D3**

WhyItMatters
Will Najib's strategy work?



Shannon Teoh

Malaysia Bureau Chief
In Kuala Lumpur

Umno's last annual congress before a crucial general election appears to have ticked all the right boxes – stamping out infighting, touting the achievements of the government and belittling the opposition.
Yet, elephants abounded in the room.
The iMalaysia Development Berhad (iMDB) scandal was practically taboo at the general assembly. Even more glaringly, the party that lays claim to be the champion of Malay interests sidestepped the corruption allegations against pro-Malay institutions such as Felda and Mara, which have bled billions under the Najib Razak administration.
Unhappiness over the rising cost of living – largely blamed on the goods and services tax the government introduced in 2015 – was swept under the carpet, reasoned away as being in God's hands.
The feel-good message of solidarity was evident, with Prime Minister Najib declaring that the top three posts in the party were "settled, a done deal".
Claims that his administration trumped that of his predecessor-turned-nemesis Mahathir Mohamad were well received by all 2,700 party delegates, who each went home with a musang king durian sapling.
But now comes the tough task of selling that "feel-good" message to voters.
It is difficult to say how Umno's tearing down of its former, long-serving leader's legacy is going to play out in an election, which Datuk Seri Najib has reminded would have to be held by June.
Between now and the election, comparisons will be made between iMDB and the RM31.5 billion in foreign exchange losses an official commission recently concluded occurred during Tun Dr Mahathir's tenure, the mega rail projects being pursued and the Petronas Twin Towers built in the former premier's day, and the billions handed to Malay contractors against his current alliance with the supposedly anti-Malay Democratic Action Party.
For Mr Najib, it seems attack may be the best form of defence.

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What's Next

Climate summit in Paris

Two years after 195 nations adopted the Paris Agreement, French President Emmanuel Macron will today convene a follow-up climate summit in Paris to jump-start the transition to a greener global economy. Some 50 world leaders are set to attend the One Planet Summit, which will centre on how to finance developing nations' efforts to simultaneously reduce their carbon footprints, adapt to climate change, and accommodate growing populations.

Eco-friendly pulp and paper products

The Singapore Environment Council will be announcing the first products certified under its enhanced Singapore Green Labelling Scheme for pulp and paper products today.
The scheme will allow consumers to choose products that are made sustainably. The council had said previously that pulp and paper firms had to do more to show they were not contributing to haze, to get the new label.

S'pore retail sales data for October

Data on retail sales for the month of October, published by the Statistics Department today, will offer more insight into how the Singapore economy has performed.
In August, retail sales grew at their fastest pace in nearly 1 1/2 years. Analysts have noted that the growth may continue in the fourth quarter amid the festive season.



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